

The Mouse grown a Rat:

OR THE

STORY

OF THE

City and Country Mouse

NEWLY TRANSPOS'D.

IN A

DISCOURSE

BETWIXT

BAYS, JOHNSON,
and SMITH.

The Fourth Edition.

LONDON,

Printed, and sold by E. Mallet next the Kings-Arms
Tavern near Fleet-bridg. 1702.

17. 2

The House of Commons

OF THE

STORY

OF

City and County

NEWLY TRANSLATED

AND

DISCOURSE

OF THE

SALES OF HOUSES

AND LANDS

OF THE

OF THE

OF THE

*The Mouse grown a Rat; or a
Discourse betwixt Bays,
Johnson, and Smith.*

JOHNSON. Mr. *Bays*, I esteem it a great piece of Condescension in you, that you will admit us into your Company, after you have acquired such vast Riches, and procured such weighty Honours, and are set at such a vast Distance from Men of our Quality.

Smith. Indeed, Mr. *Bays*, I have the same Apprehensions; methinks you are grown like a lofty Oak overtopping the Underwood, and if you deign to cast a Look downwards on us poor Shrubs, we must impute it more to your own good Nature than our Deserts; we cannot expect from the high Pinnacle on which you are perch'd, you should know us poor Mortals, by such a Distance lessened almost out of Sight.

Bays. Know you, quotha; I vow Gentlemen, I hardly know my self; my mighty Bulk does even elevate and surprize, and all that, my own transcendent Fancy. But Gentlemen, I find you have no great Breeding, when you forget my Titles, and call me by the Name of *Bays*, which I went by 14 Years ago; how-

ver you may call me what you please, at this Time I condescend to be familiar; I will lay my Grandeur aside, and discourse as formerly for an Hour or two.

Johnson. We thank you Mr. *Bays*; but you know my Temper, I never paid Respect to Titles or Riches, but always esteemed the Man for his own personal Merit, and the good Services he did his Country.

Smith. Pray Mr. *Bays*, let us know from your own Mouth, the Steps you took to mount into the Saddle of Preferment; for 'tis a Riddle to the thinking part of Mankind, how a Person of so little Merit as your self, should arrive to such vast Profits and Honours.

Bays. I tell you, Sir, as soon as ever the Prince of Orange got to St. James's, I came upon him swop with Abundance of Confidence my natural Talent, and quickly gave him to understand, that I was an honourable Squire.

Johnson. This brings into my mind a Tetrastick of *Alexander Nequams*, Fol. 55927. of his Works, Vol. 50.

Squiri squirentur, quocunq; sub Axe videntur.
Knavi knavantur, quocunq; sub Axe vagantur.
Ternio Squirorum Bully sany, Rock Hellibrando.
Huffant & swaggerant cum Verbis, Ense Botello.

But Mr. *Bays*, is Confidence a due Qualification for an Employment?

Bays. I vow the finest Thing in the whole World; but you know I was esteemed a Man of great Wit, as big as an Elephant, upon the Account of my fine Story of the City and Country Mouse.

Johnson. If you are not foully belied, Mr. *Bays*, that Story was written by *Mat. Pr——r*, and you had only

ly the fathering of it. Nor was there so much Wit in it as you pretend to.

Bays. Not Wit, thou art a Fool : Tell me any thing in the Universe finer than these Lines.

*A Milkwhite Mouse, Immortal and Unchang'd,
Fed on soft Cheese, and o'er the Dairy rang'd ;
Without unspotted, innocent within ;
She fear'd no Danger, for she knew no Gin.*

Come, Mr. *Johnson*, you are a Poet ; imitate them, imitate them presently, off hand, off hand, without Hesitation.

Johnson. I'll try.

*A Milkwhite Rogue, Immortal and Unhang'd,
By Fate and Parliaments severely bang'd ;
Without a Saint, a Devil was within ;
He fear'd all Danger, for he knew all Sin.*

Mr. *Bays.* That's pretty well done, but not very civilly exprest, considering my Quality.

Smith. Mr. *Bays*, you promised to lay Grandeur aside, and discourse freely without Exception ; but pray Mr. *Bays*, how came it to pass, since you rose by the favour of the Muses, that you did not prefer your Brethren of the Quill ? I expected my self to be at least Scavenger to *Parnassus*, or one of the Grooms of the Chamber to *Apollo*.

Bays. Did I not serve my Brethren ? Was I not the Man that abdicated *Dryden*, and crowned *Shadwel* with the Laurel ? Did not I make my *Irish* Brother a Commissioner in one of the Publick Funds, and give him a
Customers

Customers Place in the Country into the Bargain, only for writing a Ballad to the Laud and Praise of my Right Honourable Self?

Smith. This is your Crime Mr. *Bays*, to bestow that upon undeserving Sycophants, which is the Birthright of such as have wrote and fought in the Service of their Country.

Bays. Thou art still I find in the wrong Box, harping upon that dull unsonorous String of Merit: I tell thee Man, *Merit* is a Popish Doctrine, and ought to be banish'd the Court of a Protestant Prince; Dost thou think I would suffer such antiquated Coxcombs as Men of Merit and Virtue to scandalize the Court of my Prince, when it was in my power to keep 'em out? Dost thou think that I would prefer these in the Customs, when I and Sir *Stephen* and the rest of us had Footmen enough of our own to put in such Places? But to proceed, Did not I, when *Tom. Shadwel* died, split the Office of Laureat, and divide it betwixt *Na. T—*, and *Tom. R—*?

Johnson. This I think, Mr. *Bays*, was the first Treaty of Partition you ever entred into; and I can assure you, upon these Terms I should have quitted my Pretensions to the Laurel, rather than to have the Monarchy of *Parnassus* dismember'd. I suppose Mr. *Bays*, 'twas you advis'd the splitting of the Office in the Tower, and so by degrees you grew Master of the Partition Art, to such perfection, that at last you took upon you to advise the Partition of other peoples Countries.

Bays. Not a Word of that Pudding, but had the Parliament concurred with that bold Stroke, it had been a Glorious Enterprize.

Johnson. They said it was a thing unjust in its own Nature, and had they said otherwise it would have been

so notwithstanding. But had they concur'd with the Project, I suppose your next Partition Job would have been the Partition of *England*; and having a Parliament for your turn, as you call it, it might have been ratified, all Laws, Statutes and Acts of Settlement to the contrary notwithstanding.

Bays. No; to tell you the truth, my Project upon *England* was quite defeated before that time; and to lead you into a discovery of what few or none yet understand, 'twas I contriv'd the Notion of a Conquest, tho' midwiv'd into the World *in verbo Sacerdotis*: This Notion would have stood firm, if back'd with the forcible Argument of a Standing Army; but in both these great Points we miscarried, in which, if we had succeeded I should have told you a piece of my Mind.

Johnson. We were beholden to my Name-sake so, that piece of Service; he knock'd your Conquering Bishop quite out of the Saddle, laid him groveling on the Ground, and at once expos'd his Folly and inveterate Malice against our Constitution.

Bays. I wish we had made your Name-sake Archbishop of *Canterbury* upon the Revolution, that he might have employ'd his Pen in making Prayers for Fast and Thanksgiving Days, whenever the Court had a mind to be godly, and not have continued to plague every body with his old Stories of what our Fore-fathers were and did: He's the strangest Man in the Universe; a body can't break down a Pole or so of the Fence of our Laws, to make way to fatten our selves in the Pasture of Arbitrary Power, but he comes upon one swop with his Quarter-staff of *Magna Charta*, and lets fly all his Arrows of Liberty and Property in ones Chops; so that a Man can't be a little familiar or so with his Mistress.

Consti-

Constitution, but presently forsooth he is ready to indite one for a Rape : He pretends his Mistress (an old weather-beaten Hag) is as handsom now as she was a thousand years ago, tho she stinks worse than Gunpowder, which thing I hate above all in the Universe, except Bullets.

Johnson. Mr. Bays, take it from me, had you made my Name-sake Arch-bishop of *Canterbury*, and allow'd him to sell Bishopricks, as you sold Places, he would have been the same Man : He's a mere *Inamorato*, and his Mistress Constitution has a very faithful Lover of him, for whom he has suffer'd more than 50 that ride in their Coaches and six. I heard a Gentleman say in a publick Company some weeks ago, that this very Man had done more towards the Revolution than the Prince of *Orange*, and the Fourteen Thousand Five Hundred Men that came over with him.

Bays. How can that be ?

Johnson. If he had not with several others oppos'd the Tyranny of the late Reigns with the hazard of Life and Limb, there would have been no room for the Revolution : If the Tree of Arbitrary Power had not been continually shaken, it would have taken such fast Root, that it would have been immovable : If he had not set *K. James's* Army against him, they would have devour'd the 14000 men for a Breakfast.

Smith. I fancy, Mr. Bays, in consideration of these his great and eminent Services, you took no notice of him upon the Revolution, as indeed you did not of all men of his Character ; and yet at the same time, all the Riches and Honours you have acquir'd sprang from their good Services.

Bays.

Bays. Look ye, Gentlemen, you are not skill'd in Politicks, our Management is like the Peace of God, it passeth all Understanding: 'Tis no true Policy to reward Men of Merit: Am I bound to look upon the Stairs by which I ascend to the Garret of Honour? Did you ever dream that *Jacob* took his Ladder up into Heaven with him? No; the Reward of virtuous Actions is to have done them; and I would advise these men to stay till the Day of Judgment for a Reward. I cock up my Chin, look big, strut and hector whom I please; and if I look upon you meritorious Mortals, I think it is enough; but as for your Name-sake, Mr. *Johnson*, I reckon we have done well: Has he not a good Pension, a sufficient Reward for his Services?

Johnson. But how long was it before he had any thing? It was several Years e'er he was taken notice of, when worthless Sycophants, and men of slavish Principles, fed on the Fat of the Land.

Smith. And before he had any thing, he was attempted to be *De-Witted*: Because your Conquering Sparks could not knock his Arguments on head, they were resolv'd to beat out his Brains, that they might produce no more Reasons in defence of the Libertys of our Country. But, Mr. *Bays*, do you really think the small Pension that Gentleman has is a sufficient Recompence for his Sufferings, and a Reward futable to the Merit of the most valuable Man of his Age?

Bays. Yes indeed, I think it sufficient: I must acknowledg it would have been better placed, had it been sooner; but we were then in a hurry, making our own Fortunes, and had not time to reward Men of his Character: And to tell you the truth of the business, I was always against it; for if he, or Men of his Kidney, came

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into Favour, I, and Men of my Kidney, were certain to be in Disgrace ; for there is as much difference betwixt us and them, as there is betwixt Light and Darknes.

Johnson. Indeed I have heard that the small Pittance that Gentleman got was by the Industry of Mr. Secretary *Trumbul*, which I then said was an ill Omen of his Exit from his Office ; for I think him the only Secretary of State since the Revolution, that recommended a Sufferer to Royal Favour. We never expected a thing of that nature from my *Ld N—*, and Secretary *Trenchard* basely betray'd his Party, and sold 'em, as did your Right Honourable Self ; and for the rest of 'em, I am altogether unacquainted with their Virtues.

Smith. You say, Mr. *Bays*, that Mr. *Johnson's* Pension is a sufficient Reward for his Services : Pray, Sir, who will you make the Standard of Merit ? Will you make Mrs. *Villers*, or the Foreigners in the *Irish* Grants ? or will you make your self the Standard ? If your self, according to the rule of proportion betwixt you and Mr. *Johnson*, you ought not at this time to have been advanced above the King's Livery : If the other, pray reckon Services, and see which way the Ballance inclines.

Bays. Look ye, Gentlemen, the King has the liberty of preferring whom he pleases ; and if he will not advance such Men as you speak of, what's that to you or any body else ?

Johnson. Mr. *Bays*, you must not make the King the Packhorse to bear the Load of your Iniquity ; we have a greater Veneration for his Majesty, and are better assured of his Character than that comes to. If our King were a *Jew*, a *Turk*, an Infidel, Men so valuable and serviceable to their Country would not pass without a just Recompence : The Fault lies at your door who are
about

about him, who will not suffer the meritorious Actions of his best and bravest Subjects to come to his knowledge; and you keep him a Stranger both to their Persons and Intereſts.

Smith. Sir, if you had been juſt to Men of Merit, that Prince that has rais'd you to this Fortune and to this Honour, you would have made him acquainted with the Sufferings of ſuch Men as were in his Intereſt, and thoſe were the very occaſion of his being King of *England*. Suppose his Maſteſty had been advis'd, upon his coming to the Throne, to have eſtabliſhed ſome of the chief Patriots and Sufferers of this Kingdom, to have examined into the Merit of Men before they were advanc'd to Offices, and that no Man ſhould have Preference that had not before ſerv'd his Country: Would not this have given him the juſt Title of a grateful Prince, and have ſecur'd his Government againſt the Attempts of his Enemies, when it was under the Management of his beſt Friends?

Johnson. What Mr. *Smith* ſays is very true: Had our Government been in the hands of ſuch Men, his Maſteſty had not been betrayed in his Deſign upon *Dunkirk*, nor had *Dixmude* been ſo treacherouſly loſt; but how the Devil that Fellow who ſurrender'd it came to die for it, when others have been prefer'd, I can't tell. Had theſe Men been in the Miniſtry, *Talmaſh*, with many other brave *Engliſh*-men, had never been ſacrific'd thro' notorious Treachery; *Pointi* had not eſcap'd, nor the *Thoulon* Squadron got into *Breſt*.

Bays. I hear you with patience; proceed.

Johnson. It's a Riddle to me, Mr. *Bays*, how the *French* King, who is an abominable Tyrant, ſhould be ſo faithfully ſerv'd, and that K. *William*, whoſe Govern-

ment is founded upon the most just and equitable Laws in the World, should be betray'd in almost all the Designs he ever had for the good of our Realm. This certainly proceeds from what we were before speaking of; and we must expect such Events for the future, if such a Management continues.

Smith. Mr. *Bays*, can you give me an Instance in one single Ship, during the War, belonging to the *French* King, that was given up by its Commander, without a Blow? Have we not got what Ships we have taken from them by downright fighting? And how many have we had delivered up without striking a stroke? Have they not run away by whole Fleets and Squadrons; and then have been acquitted by their own Gang, a Method of Trial you like very well?

Bays. Gentlemen, you are now got out of my Element, talk of any thing but Fighting, and I'll hearken to you. I am sure I never betrayed the King in Battel; and as to what you say concerning the Preferment of Men of Merit, I must tell you, Gentlemen, you do not understand the Business of a Courtier, your foolish nice Honour and Conscience is a bar to your Knowledg in that point. Now we Courtiers, when we are got into an Office, the first thing we do is to lay down the Methods by which we shall make our Fortunes; and for you to talk of rewarding Men in ones own prejudice is mere Nonsense. You remember, Mr. *Smith*, you spake to me for a Place in the Customs of 200 *l. per Annum*; you might as well have ask'd me to have given you 600 *l.* out of my Pocket, 'twas the very same thing: For Places at that time sold at 3 years Purchase, and I had Customers enow for 'em.

Smith.

Smith. I find, Mr. *Bays*, the Piety of Courts and Camps is much alike; but if you design'd to serve Men of Merit after this manner, you would have done very honestly to have put forth a Proclamation, declaring, Whereas there were many Gentlemen in this our Kingdom of *England*, who had in the late Reigns suffered Imprisonments, pecuniary Fines, and other Punishments, for asserting the Liberties of *England*, and for opposing Popery and Arbitrary Government; so that the said Persons having been ruined in their Fortunes, and themselves and Families being in a necessitous Condition, do expect from this Government Rewards suitable to their great and eminent Services: Be it therefore declared by and with the Advice of Mr. *Bays*, and others the Evil Counsellors of this Kingdom, That henceforth the Persons aforesaid do give no further Attendance at Court, we being resolv'd never to admit them into Places of Profit or Trust under this Government. This Declaration, Mr. *Bays*, would have been very honest; for hereby they had known their Doom at once, and not have spent 13 or 14 years in a fruitless Attendance upon an ungrateful Court.

Bays. Why all this upon me, have not others done the like? Did not your Presbyterian Saints do the same thing? Did one of 'em all reward a Man of their own Party? Your Trustees for the *I——* Forfeitures, who are most of 'em Whigs, did they carry one such Person to *Ireland* with them? Have they not made a Monopoly of that Business, and shared the Spoil amongst themselves and their Creatures?

Johnson. 'Tis true enough, Sir; but is this less a Crime, because all men are guilty of it? Had we Men of Probity and Honesty in eminent Posts and Offices, the
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Case would be otherwise; nor should we have spent so many Millions in a War, and run the Nation so much in debt, to so very little purpose, that we find the Nation in a worse Condition now than before the War.

Bays. That's nothing to me; I am sure I have deserved what I have got. How had your Mony been re-coined, had it not been for my Project of a Paper Credit?

Johnson. The Paper Credit, Mr. *Bays*, was a Child of another body's getting: 'Twas *Robbin Murray's* Invention. 'Tis true, you brought it into the House, and so it pass'd for your own, when God knows you did not understand the Strength of that Project your self; for had the Inventor been advis'd in the Management, instead of so many hundred Thousand of Pounds loss to the Nation in the circulating of those Bills, they had been better than *Specie*. However, you got your Ends by 'em, you now ride in your Coach and six, and poor *Murray* is a Prisoner in the Fleet for a small Debt.

Smith. Did you give *Murray* nothing for helping you to that famous Project? 'Twas the top of all your Performances.

Bays. Give him, quotha! not one Penny, I vow. 'Tis not common Prudence to reward such Men; Mony makes 'em lazy: Being in want, and a Prisoner, will sharpen his Fancy, and put an Edg upon his Contrivance. I hope to have as great Offers from him this Sessions, which he would never have thought of, had his Fancy been dull'd by Plenty of Mony: Such Men are bound to work for us. 'Twas not his Invention, nor *Mordecai Abbot's* putting of it into Form, 'twas my offering of it to the House with a good Assurance did the

the business ; and you know at that time I had a great Interest in the House of Commons : I could be guilty of any Crime, and then get a Vote pass'd in my favour.

Smith. I think, Mr. *Bays*, your Interest in that House did not hold long, you were forc'd at last to get your self remov'd : They began to run upon you at such a rate, that they e'en made you cry in the House, the first sign ever you gave of Grace.

Bays. Grace ! no, I cried for mere Madness ; for would it not vex one to be run upon at that rate, who but a Sessions or two before sway'd the whole House ? They were just like a Company of Birds upon a poor Owl : They teez'd me and vex'd me, and my Mouse-ship had not a Hole to creep into to secure me from the Stings of their Tongues. I remember one day in the heat of my political Fury, I took an occasion to swear in the House, and *Ned H.* immediately took me up for it, and presently they begun to bawl about Precedents, and sending me a Tower Rat into my Lord *Lucas's* Trap. 'Twas high time, I think, to get my self remov'd ; had I staid there, I had been worried to Death among 'em.

Smith. But that did not do ; they reach'd you for all that : The Commons of *England* have a powerful long Arm.

Bays. Reach me, quotha ! But to what purpose ? I defy 'em all now ; I amn't to be tried by a parcel of Fellows that send Men to the Pillory, and present Ballads and Common-Shoars. I could not chuse but laugh at the different Opinion of the two Houses : One House made me a Demi-God, whilst the other House made a mere Devil of me ; and this difference I can make at any time, whenever I or my Reputation are in danger. Alack a day, we were no more for a War the last Sessi-

ons,

ons, than we should have been were we to have fought the Battel our selves, which you know we car'd for at no rate : However 'twas a good Amusement to incense the Common unthinking People against the Parliament ; for you find the Mob sways the Ballance to which side ever they come : but did they know how they have all along been cullied by us, and have been wrought upon by us to clamour against whomsoever we please, only to secure us from being detected and punished for embezzeling the Nation's Money, they would serve us as the *Dutch* did the Great *De Wit*, or as they did the *Engliss* at *Amboyna*.

Smith. Truly, Sir, you gain'd a wonderful Point, when you got the Mob to your side ; but of all things, I wonder how you got such a Party in the City, especially among that sort of People who had formerly been Haters of Monarchy, and the worst Enemies to the Court of any Men in *England*. Pray, Mr. *Bays*, unfold this Riddle to us ; for we think it a mighty turn of Politicks.

Bays. Gentlemen, to instruct you in the deep Mysteries of our Management, I'll acquaint you with this Trick of State : Do but consider, that Interest governs the World, that it is the God to whom all the Mortals inhabiting the Terrestrial Globe pay Obedience ; and then you'll find what a powerful Instrument it is in the hand of one that knows how to make use of it. Interest will make men sell their Country, betray their Posterity, murder the Reputation of the best Men in *England*, and sanctify the Villanies of the greatest Offenders. We quickly found the blind side of the City Saints, and that they worship'd Interest as much as any men ; hereupon we contriv'd to link them to our selves by the in-

indissoluble Knot of Interest. This was done by the Potent Charms of Chequer and Bank Bills, Loans upon Publick Funds and Tallies: So we brought them as it were into the Government, and they were forced to clamour and bawl on our Side, whenever any of us were attacked in Parliament, or otherwise; for we took care to tell them, that whatever was said or done against us, was designed against the King; and that the Parliament meant not the punishing of us for Misdemeanors, but that they designed the Subversion of the Government, and Restoration of K. *James*: And so we branded all that opposed us with the infamous Titles of *Jacobites*, Men in a *French* Interest, and that had taken *French* Money. Was not that a pretty Whim enough, when by this means we made the whole Mob of the Kingdom believe, That the best Men in the House of Commons had taken Money of Count *Tallard* the *French* Ambassador, when God knows, he had disposed of his Money long before that time to the Partitioners, who helped his Master to the Kingdom of *Spain*?

Johnson. Sir, it's a strange thing to me, how those Modern Whigs in the City should relinquish their Principles, and turn Enemies to the *English* Constitution, merely for the sake of eight or ten *per Cent*. for their Money.

Bays. Eight or ten *per Cent*. you talk now according to your Judgment: I'll give you one Instance of Trading with the Government. At a certain time the Victualling was much in Debt, and there being no Money in the Office to pay those that dealt with it, many of them were forced to sell their Office Warrants at 30 *per Cent*. more or less loss: Not long after that came into that Office a great Quantity of Salt Tallies, which, as I remember,

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member, had 15 *per Cent.* allow'd to any one that would take them : Many poor Traders could not take them at this rate, and so were forced to sell them. In a short time after this, these Tallies were taken in at the Bank at their full value. Now do but make a Calculation of the Profit the Men made by buying these Office Warrants.

	l.
By Profit of 70 l. in a 100, Warrant bought—	30
By Profit in taking out the Tally ————	15
	—
	45

So that you see the 70 l. is grown 115 l. before it came into the Bank, where it was better than Specie. A certain Brewer at this Juncture by this means got upwards of ten Thousand Pound, and is now a Member.

Smith. This is a very fine Trade indeed, Mr. *Bays* ; but pray how was that Office served at that Time ? At this rate the Nation paid at least 50 *per Cent.* more than the Market Price ; and so we have raised just as much more Money as we needed, if all the Offices in the Kingdom have been managed alike.

Bays. It's no matter for that : By this means we have got a Party to our selves, that will be assistant to us in any thing we do, be it never so much against the Interest of the Kingdom : They swear for us, lie for us, backbite and slander for us ; they'll be *Jews, Turks, Heathens* or any thing else, provided we are so too. Look ye Gentlemen, the Cause must be supported, and this cannot be done without Numbers, and Numbers sufficient must be raised, cost what it will, otherwise we shall be destroyed by raskally Impeachments and Attainders

tainers. And I can assure you, Gentlemen, if I and some few more go that way, you'll find a great many more will follow ; perhaps there is not one Commission in *England* clear. And would you be willing to see such another hanging Bout as that was in the *West* ?

Smith. Yes with all my Soul, of such men as you : Those in the *West* suffered in a Good Cause, they died like Men in the Service of their Country ; but these will die like Dogs for Sheep-stealing and Rapine. No, Mr. *Bays*, if the Nation do you Justice, and send you to make your Exit at *Hyde-Park* corner, I can tell you most of the honest People of *London* and *Westminster* will make a Holiday to wait upon you.

Bays. I don't care one Fart for them all ; but by the way I must tell you I don't like dying after any rate ; there is none but the Parliament can effect a thing of that Nature, and you see what the last Parliament got by attempting it, they blew up themselves with their own Fire.

Johnson. Indeed Mr. *Bays*, you were the first that ever spirited the People against their own Representatives : No Age, no Chronicle can produce a parallel Instance hereof ; and 'tis very strange, that such a People as those of *England* should be let into so fatal an Error, the consequence of which must be the Destruction of their Civil Rights. I can't tell what Fault could be found with that Parliament, unless their being zealous for their own Rights as they were a Parliament, and for the Peoples Rights as they were their Representatives, may be accounted a Crime.

Bays. Do you think it was not a Crime in them to commit the five *Kentishmen* for petitioning ?

Smith. For insulting the Parliament you mean. Suppose, Mr. *Bays*, when you were a Regent in the Treasury, if a body should have petitioned that Board, and directed you in insolent Terms, how you should manage the Nation's Cash, and have told you that your Reign was blemished by many Mismanagements; would you have acquiesced with such a Petition, and granted the Prayer thereof? If a Man speaks reflecting Words against a Peer, and is prosecuted and imprisoned for the same upon *Scandalum Magnatum*; shall the greatest Authority in *England* want a Power to punish Men that fly in the Face of that Authority?

Bays. They have too much Power, and their Wings ought to be clipt, when they fly in the Face of such Men as my self. You see what they got by that Job; our Friends in the City improved it to a Miracle, and made it ring all the Kingdom over. This was a good handle for us to take hold on: The other Calumnies we raised against them the Mob took upon Trust; and whither can't we lead them, when they never examine into the Truth of what we say? But this of the 5 Worthies was so apparent, that it made 'em swallow down all the Lies we gave 'em before, without straining.

Johnson. When you cried up the *Kentish* Men at that rate, I remember you told us that the County of *Kent* would elect 'em all Members in the next Parliament, and that the Freeholders of the County had petitioned two of 'em to stand for Knights of the Shire; but I find neither of 'em elected by the List.

Bays. Prithee, that was said only to amuse the Mob, to elevate and surprize, and all that: for we know at the same time they were not Men of that Reputation in their Country, as we pretended; and what did it signify to
us?

us? we made use of them only for our own Interest ; They were the Make-a-noise-Toms of that County, brave forward Fellows, and bold in the Cause, and they got a good Dinner from the City, and I can't tell what from the Court, for that piece of Knight-Errantry.

Smith. I find, Mr. *Bays*, your Cause, as you call it, is chiefly supported by Lying and Falshood : I can assure you I have a very mean Opinion of such a Cause, and the Partizans of it.

Bays. This Cause, Mr. *Smith*, was ever supported after this manner ; for ours is no new Cause, but an old one got into new Hands : Whoever misled their Prince, betrayed their Country, and rob'd the Nation of its Wealth, had recourse to the same Methods : Did not they lie as well as we ? Did they not make Sham Plots, and suborn Men to swear People out of their Lives ? And since the Revolution, did *Hamden* in the Treasury, or the Whigs in other eminent Posts prefer honest Men any more than my self ? And as to Parliamentary Enquiries, have not People in all Reigns managed Parliaments for the Interest of the Prince and his Ministers, whose Interest and Inclinations were always the same ? Were not Members brib'd in *Charles 2d's* time by Pensions, to such a degree, that when an Account was demanded of the numbers of those mercenary Members, *Sir Stephen* could reckon between 40 and 50 by his Memory ? This indeed was a thing so abominably exploded in former Reigns, that we durst not attempt it so barefac'd in this ; but we had recourse to a genteeler Method, by giving them Places of Profit and Trust, so that we had 2 or 3 Salary Parliaments one after another.

Smith.

Smith. So by these Methods has our Nation been brought into this languishing Condition: for you never consider'd whether the Person was qualified for the Office, but whether he was a Member of Parliament. Now if he were a Fool or a Knave, and by that means injur'd the Nation in his Office, he was no way accountable: He could not be called to an account by the Court; he voted for his Place, and they could expect no more of him than to answer the Ends for which he was made an Officer. If he were accused before Parliament, he was there tried by his own Party; so that publick Frauds and Cheats went unpunished, and those that endeavour'd to discover them were ruined for their Pains. But pray, Mr. *Bays*, how came you to lose that Interest in the House of Commons, and to let the Country Party get the Ascendant over you?

Bays. To tell you the Truth of the matter, we grew too impudent in the House, and also made too bold with the Nation's Cash. In the House I us'd to talk all, and had the Assurance to say in my Speeches, that I spoke the Sense of the major part of the House. The Country Party were scandaliz'd at this, as if there had been a Fellow-feeling betwixt me and the major part of the Members before-hand. Then our extraordinary Embezlements in Offices were too apparently scandalous: Commissioners at 500 *l. per Annum* Salary, could live at the rate of 1000 *l. per Ann.* and yet in a very few Years make Purchases of 40 or 50 Thousand Pounds: Clerks at Fourscore and 60 *l. per Ann.* could purchase Estates of twenty Thousand Pounds; nay, our very Footboys and Menials, that we had made Door-keepers and Underlings, could buff Gentlemen, and make Purchases. In a word, the whole Revenue sunk, the Funds became

became deficient, the National Debts were unpaid, Poverty reigned every where, and Plenty appear'd nowhere but at our own Tables, and in our own Houses. This created grumbling in the Country, and none were pleas'd with our Actions in the City, but the Stock-Jobbers; and in fine, the whole Nation was apprised of our Mismanagements, and chose such a Parliament as would do them Justice. Now my Breech began to make Buttons; I dream't of nothing but Impeachments, Attainders, Poll-Axes and Gibbets, and would willingly have compounded, thrown up my Offices, and have gone off with what I had gotten; but there were so many private, besides publick Piques against me in the House of Commons, that there was no likelihood of an Accommodation.

Johnson. Indeed, Mr. *Bays*, I thought you in very indifferent Circumstances when the Partition Treaty was condemned by both Houses; I thought you then routed Horse and Foot, there seem'd no way for you to escape.

Bays. Nor indeed had there been a way, had not our stanch Stock-Jobbers in the City and other places stood firm to our Interest: These exercis'd their Talent of Lying to a Miracle, on our behalf; so that you saw we turned the Tables upon the Commons, and made the People believe that those very Persons in the House who prosecuted us with most vigour, were the chief Enemies of the Kingdom, and had a design to dethrone the King, and restore K. *James*. You can't tell what abundance of Mony this Affair cost us, not a little Libeller against the Parliament but had a snack of us; light come, light go: But to keep *Jack How* out of *Glocestershire* cost us the Devil and all of Mony; but our Fortunes, which

which were made by Bribery, must be supported by the same Methods they were acquired.

Johnson. Well, Mr. *Bays*, I find I have not been mistaken in my Opinion of the Management of publick Affairs; we have sensibly felt the Effects of it. But, Sir, have none of you at the Helm any conscience how you steer the Ship of State? If you split her upon the Rocks, are you not in as much danger of drowning as any of the common Sailors, won't you share in the public Ruin of your Country? And what will all your ill gotten Gain signify, if you cannot land it safe ashoar?

Bays. Gentlemen, we are provided for the worst, no Tempests nor Hurricane of Fate, but those Tornados that rise in St. *Stephen's* Chappel, can overset our Navigation: The *Boreas's* that sit in that House, if they are unanimous, may blow us to the Devil; but nothing else can hurt us. In all other Cases we are provided with Planks to get safe ashoar: We have got Mony enough under King *William* to make our Peace, if King *James*, King *Lewis*, King *Turk*, King *Devil* succeed him. This is our Sheet Anchor, at which we can ride secure of all Storms and Tempests in all Reigns and Revolutions whatsoever.

Smith. Then, Mr. *Johnson*, you and I are in a shitten Condition; we have been ruined for our Country in the late Reigns, we have been starved for our Country in this Reign, and we may be hang'd for our Country in the next Reign. On my word we have made a fine Kettle of Fish on't: No Penny, no *Pater noster*. We lost all our Mony formerly, and have got none now; for which very reason it seems we may be very decently tuck'd up when time shall serve.

Johnson.

Johnson. For this very reason, Mr. *Bays*, you ought to give us something considerable ; for it is a pity, that after all our suffering and starving, we should be hanged at last.

Bays. Look ye, Gentlemen, I know you both to be so damnably sower'd against the Ministers, that you'l never be reconcil'd to us: The 13 years we have kept you starving will still stick in your Stomachs; and let me tell you, the Mony that is honestly gotten by a Salary will never do the business; and what is worst of all, you come in at the Fag-end of the Market. The Cheaters won't be able to keep open shop long; for I find by the Position of the Parliamentary Planets, we are just come to a Crisis. And besides, you don't know the Terms upon which we admit men into Offices: You must abjure the Interest of your Country, as Witches abjure Jesus Christ, when they contract with the Devil: You must deny the Authority of Parliaments, which I know are your Idols: You must bely, slander, backbite, asperse your own Father, if he be against the Interest of the Court: In a word, you must come over without reserve, you must be thoroughly changed, and become new Creatures; and this I know is a difficult thing, considering the Inflexibleness of your Tempers, whose Notions are become natural, and are constituent parts of your *Compositum*: 'Tis as impossible for you to change your Tempers, as it is for you to create your selves anew, which if it were in your Power, I believe you would make your selves the same resolute and stubborn Creatures you now are.

Johnson. Indeed, Mr. *Bays*, you are in the right on't; we shall not now be afraid of hanging, who have come so often near the Gallows. We have many years encountred Poverty, the most formidable Enemy in the World, and we cannot fear a less Enemy. You'l find at all times our Virtue will be a better support to us than your Money will be to you. I can assure you I can go to bed at night with a hungry Belly, and yet can sleep as well as *K. William*, or
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any King in *Europe* : My Conscience is not disturb'd with black Thoughts of my ill Services to my Country, I am not alarm'd in the silent Hours of the Night, with the imagined Sounds of weeping Orphans and Widows who are now starving, whose brave Heads of their Families were lop't, to make a Bridg for *K. William* to come to the Imperial Crowns of these Kingdoms ; I never look behind me adays to see if the Ghosts of murdered Patriots follow me ; I have nothing to mourn for, but the distressed Condition of my Dear and Native Land, and to see her in the Hands of bold Invaders like your self. Indeed, Mr. *Bays*, I would not change Conditions with you, could my Circumstances in the World possibly be worse than they are.

Smith. Mr. *Bays* I suppose does not believe one Word of what you say. For my part, Mr. *Bays*, I am the merriest Man in Affliction of any in the World : I know I am basely and ungratefully dealt with, my Honesty has brought me very low ; but I know that's none of my Fault, but my Virtue. I am rejoiced to see a poor meagre Wretch in an Office fretting his Guts to Fiddle-Strings in contriving how to cheat the Nation, and to see him miserable in the midst of all his Riches. I always laugh when I see a debauched Monster in a Chair, tormented with the Gout or Pox, and not able to stand upon his Legs ; being allowed that to pamper his Lust, which should have fed the hungry Bellies of Men of Probity and Honour. When I am minded to divert my self, I go to the Coffee-houses in the City, where I always meet with a parcel of Mortals drinking of Ninny-Broth, and exercising their vicious Talent in lying and railing against the Parliament ; I could wish with all my Soul, that every one of these Blockheads had a Saddle at his Back, provided it were not to descend to their Posterity, who could not help their Parents having long Ears nor wearing Packsaddles. No, Mr. *Bays*, I am not left quite comfortless, I make a Virtue of Necessity ; but what rejoices me most of all is, That one time or other I shall see some of you

you topping Sparks brought to Punishment for the Injuries done our Nation ; this I am certain of, for Justice tho it comes slow, it comes sure.

Mr. Bays. Well Gentlemen, I commend you : like Madmen you please your selves with Fancies. I desire none of your Entertainment, I can't feed upon such thin Diet : I think I shan't starve and pine my self, when I can feed on the Fat of the Land : I shan't eat Bread and Cheese, when I can command Venison out of any of the King's Parks ; but I must confess sometimes I am disturbed in my Mind, which makes my stomach a little squeamish, when I reflect upon my Carriage towards better Men than my self ; and I can assure you were I to act my Part over again, I would quite alter that Scene.

Johnson. Tho I am a Sufferer by the Revolution, and am never likely to meet with a Reward, yet I should have rejoiced, had it been for the Advantage of my Country.

Bays. Why, Sir, have you not a better King than the former King ?

Smith. Yes, Sir, we have ; but who helped you to this King ? Was it not such Men as *Mr. Johnson* and my self ? Ay, say the City-Whigs, we have now a good King ; but did they ever yet commend the good People, that brought this good King to the Throne ? But if we have got a good King, I think we are not much mended in our Ministry, they are generally the same or worse. Now do you think, *Mr. Bays*, that the *English* Nation will ever again be at the Charge of a Revolution, only to make the Court-Stagers face about as they were ? Or do you think that such Men as I must be us'd as Scaffolds to be pull'd down when the House is built ?

Johnson. I fancy, Sir, you took in some of those old Courtiers, to teach you the Art and Mystery of Cozenage ; for you can never pretend that they could be serviceable to this Government, considering they always were avowed Enemies to those Principles upon which it is founded.

Bays. Gentlemen, you are quite mistaken, it was but

Prudence to make a Ministry of the most able Statesmen of both the former Reigns, that the World might be satisfied in the Ministry of *England*.

Johnson. During the Reigns of the two former Kings, able Men were neither necessary nor desired; those Kings wanted Tools for Arbitrary Designs, mere Jack-hold-my-Staffs that would be the Cyphers of Government, and let the Popish Priests make the Sum; for able Statesmen, where were they, or where are they? Had we any in those Reigns capable of writing a Commentary upon the Horn-Book, except *Hallifax*, who has left us a few Jingles of his Policy, whose Title I think I should have scorn'd to have worn, tho his Estate had been thrown me in as Paper and Packthred into the Bargain? For the New Ones, I am altogether unacquainted with their Learning or Parts; I know not the Universities they were bred at, nor their Knowledg in the Sciences; I judg of their Skill in State Affairs, by the effect of their Management upon the Publick, by which I make but slender Conclusions of their Judgment. And for their Honesty, with the Blind Man, I wish I could see it.

Bays. Certainly Gentlemen, you are quite distracted: Will neither old nor new Ministry please you? For God's sake what would you be at? You rail at us all.

Johnson. No, no; we only reflect upon the bad Men of both Ministrys, only upon such who get into the Government, as Sponges do into Liquor, to suck it dry. We recriminate on such who have betrayed our Country for two Reigns together, and now put themselves in the way to clench the Nail in this Reign, which they drove in the t'other; upon those Creatures who preach'd up Passive Obedience in *Charles* and *James's* Reigns, and those who now preach up the Doctrine of a Conquest for the same End and Purpose. If you had not talk'd of Standing Armies and other Instruments of Slavery, we had not been awakened to enquire into your evil Designs against our Liberties; and then rewarding of such Men with Places and Pre-

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d in
ferments, plainly shewed your Love to those Principles,
and your Hatred of the opposite Party.

Bays. Well Gentlemen, I find the main difference be-
twixt us is Rewards; and if we had eas'd you in that Affair,
suppose we might have been easy in all the rest.

Smith. Not so neither, we are not to be brib'd: but
what can we say of a Ministry, that neither rewards nor puni-
shes; or rather that punishes the greatest Criminals with the
Rewards that are due to the greatest Sufferers?

Bays. The Sufferers are so numerous, that we had not
herewithal to gratify them.

Smith. The Criminals were as many, and yet you found
ways to gratify them: Would not the *Irish* and *English*
Grants have gone a great way towards it? If those Grants
had been thus applied, I am of Opinion the Parliament of
England would never have resumed them. The very Grant
given to Mrs. *Villers* would have rewarded above 100 Suffer-
ers at 200 *l.* per *Ann.* each, and would thereby have secured
many Families in the Interest of *England*, which now in all
probability are likely never to be; for few Children will tread
in their Fathers Steps to their own Destruction, they'll remem-
ber what Treatment their Parents met with, and think of the
gratitude of Courts.

Johnson. And suppose the *English* Grants had been be-
stowed after the same manner, with all the Offices in the King-
dom, how many thousand Men of Merit would have been re-
warded by that means?

Bays. Look ye, Gentlemen, we have seen our Error, and
will reward such Men for the future, if we can find 'em out.

Smith. I'll put you in a way to do that, one 3^d part of
em you may find in the Prisons of the Fleet, the Kings Bench,
&c. another 3^d part are Absconders for fear of getting into
Goal, and t'other 3^d part are subsisting upon the Charity of
those Friends that lent 'em Money in the late Reigns to pur-
chase their Pardons, which Money our Gracious Government
is not yet enabled 'em to repay.

Bays.

Bays. Truly, Sirs, one great Reason of their Non-admittance in to Offices, was because they were not capable of Business, most of 'em not being bred to Accounts and Business: tho they are honest Men, yet you know every honest Man can't make a Mouse-Trap.

Johnson. Nor tell a Story of a Mouse neither: But I hope they understood Accounts as well as *J. P.* and the rest of the Commissioners of Prizes; and why could they not prefer an Honest Fool as well as a Knaveish one?

Bays. Besides, they understood nothing of Gentility: Do you think a King's Court must be crowded with Bumpkins?

Johnson. Must we all be Beaus then, that come to Court? Can't a Man inherit his Majesties Favour, unless he wears a long Periwig? Scrape and Cringe Qualifications of a Statesman? Do you remember what our old *English* Bard *Withers* says of such Fellows?

*If I should have been hung, I know not how
To teach my Body how to cringe or bow;
Or to embrace a Fellow's hinder Quarters,
As if I meant to steal away his Garters.
If any bow'd to me with Congees trim,
All I could do was stand and laugh at him.
Bless me, thought I, what will this Coxcomb do,
When I perceiv'd one reaching at my Shoo?*

Bays. You can't imagin Gentlemen how awkward a Bumpkin looks at Court, and how much he is despised by us: The Country Squires that brought up the late Addresses, we receiv'd 'em indeed very Graciously; but as soon as their Backs were turn'd, Lord how we banter'd 'em. These Blockheads said, we are the Fellows that they live by, let 'em get into the Country and work for more Money, we'll take care to spend it for 'em: We had woundy Sport with one Fellow, that brought 3 or 4 Addresses out of the *West*; his Nose was set on the wrong way, and every time we had good Diversion to play with his Nose before his Face. But mentioning Addresses, pray Gentlemen what do you think of the Addresses against the Prince of *Wales*? Does not that Turn elevate and surprize, and all that?

Smith. Indeed Sir, I was surpriz'd to see a Body of Men, who had attended *K. James*, address a Government in Mourning for him: you looked as if you were in Love with the *Welch* Bastard, when you paid so much respect to his Pretended Father.

Bays. Look ye, Sirs, I find you are altogether ignorant in the Methods of Courts, whose Gentility obliges us to pay respect to all crown'd Heads. If the Czar of *Muscovy* should die; nay if the De

himself should die, as he is Prince of the Infernal Regions, we are obliged to mourn for him. But, Gentlemen, to lead you into the Whim of Addressing, I must tell you, that we tri'd all ways possible to bring that Business about before that time. The Address to *Winton* and other Places were to the same purpose. Not the Pr. of *Wales* for a Bastard ! The Addresses were meant against the Parliament, of whom we were more in danger than of the *French King*, and the Pr. of *Wales* both.

Smith. Why the Parliament had settl'd the Succession in the Protestant Line, and upon a Foreigner too, according to your own Hearts desire; the King was pleas'd with what they had done, and we thought they'd have sat, till the time by Law prescrib'd for their Dissolution.

Bays. Whatever you thought, I am sure had they not gone off as they did, they would have got our Heads off in another Sessions. And I'll assure you we are much beholden to the *French King*, in dearing the Pr. of *Wales*, in the happy Minute, for our Relief.

Smith. Sir, I fancy you and most of your Gang, are not so much against the P. of *Wales* as you pretend; otherwise you would have encouraged a Proof of his Illegitimacy and Imposture. By this you seem to keep *Bayard* in the Stable, and are hush in his Cause, that you may be able to speak in your own, if ever God for our Sins should offer him to enjoy the Throne of his Pretended Father. I have read several of Mr. *Fuller's* Books on that Subject. Pray, Sir, your opinion of that Affair.

Bays. You know *Fuller* is a Fellow of no Credit, he was himself voted an Impostor by Parliament, and upon that Account stigmatized by Law in a Court of Justice.

Johnson. 'Tis true, he was so voted and so stigmatiz'd, but that Parliament might as well have voted him a Dromedary, or a Hobby horse, as an Impostor; for an Impostor is a Person that represents another Person that really he is not; but *Wm. Fuller* is the same individual *Wm. Fuller* as he was at the time of his Christening, and never pretended to the Parliament to be otherwise. He is beholden to his Jury for his being stigmatiz'd, which were a Parcel of Glorious Sparks; I make no question but they would have found him snick with Child, had the Parliament voted him a Woman. But, Mr. *Bays*, was it ever known before, that Members were Evidence at the Bar of what was transacted in their House? This was the good way to keep all Complaints from being brought thither.

Smith. I don't remember any one neither, that was prosecuted by Order of the House by the Attorney General, except himself; which

which plainly shows, that some body was willing to make it evident that there was no Proof of the Illegitimacy of the Pr. of *Wales*.

Bays. Besides, Gentlemen, you know he has been Guilty of many ill things, as several Books against him demonstrate, and therefore ought not to have the Encouragement of the Court.

Smith. Suppose him Guilty of all that is suggested, why should that prevent a due Inquiry into the matter?

Johnson. But besides, I understand he has been very serviceable to the Government in divers Respects, too many to enumerate, and must he lose the Favour of the Court, because he fell under the Displeasure of the Commons? How came you to alter that Scene, those that fall under the Displeasure of the House now, are not treated after that manner. We can have your Legion Letters, your Stories of *Rome* and *Athens*, and 100 other Libels against the Parliament, in order to subvert our Constitution, publicly sold and dispersed without any Secretary of State's Warrant against either Authors or Publishers. Did you ever read the Poem, called, *the Generous Muse*? Is not there a fine piece of Stuff in commendation of *K. James*, and the prettiest Reflections in the World upon the Government, and no notice taken of it; when at the same time if a Body happen to make a Ballad reflecting upon a Foreigner, that has run away with more than all the Honest Men in *England* have got since the Revolution, the Author is brought into Jeopardy by Warrants and Presentments. This indeed, Sir, is a sure sign, that you have not so great an Aversion to the P. of *Wales* as your Noise about him would make us believe.

Bays. Gentlemen, is it common Prudence for us who have got large Estates under *K. William*, to appear too violent against one that has the least Pretension, tho never so unjust, to the Throne? would you have us mark our selves, that we may be known? No, our Business is to act so cunningly in one Reign, that we may set our selves in the way of Preferment in the next. But my Watch says, 'tis past 11 a Clock, and I have made an Affignation at 12 with a thing in Petticoats, and must leave you; but at our next Meeting shall endeavour to bring you over.

Johnson. Mr. *Bays*, we thank you for this Condescension, but take this from me till I see you next, that you and the rest of your Gang as you have been the Ruin of the best Men in *England*, so are by this means the greatest Enemies to *K. William* and his Government: and so Farewel.

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